

## §219.7

## 36 CFR Ch. II (7–1–03 Edition)

### §219.7 Plan decisions.

Plan decisions guide or limit uses of National Forest System resources and provide the basis for future agency action. Plan decisions link the requirements of laws, regulations, Executive Orders, policies, and the Forest Service national strategic plan to specific national forests and grasslands. While plan decisions generally do not commit resources to a site-specific action, plan decisions provide a framework for authorizing site-specific actions that may commit resources. In making decisions, the responsible official should seek to manage National Forest System resources in a combination that best serves the public interest without impairment of the productivity of the land consistent with the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960. Plan decisions may apply to all or part of a plan area. Paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section describe the decisions in a plan.

(a) *Desired resource conditions.* These plan decisions define the resource conditions sought within all or portions of the plan area. Desired resource conditions may include, but are not limited to, the desired watershed and ecological conditions and aquatic and terrestrial habitat characteristics.

(b) *Objectives.* These plan decisions are concise statements describing measurable results intended to contribute to sustainability (§219.19), including a desired level of uses, values, products, and services, assuming current or likely budgets and considering other spending levels as appropriate. Objectives include an estimate of the time and resources needed for their completion.

(c) *Standards.* These plan decisions are the requirements and limitations for land uses and management actions necessary for the achievement of desired conditions and objectives and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, Executive Orders, and policies. Standards include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Limitations on even-aged timber harvest methods;
- (2) Maximum size openings from timber harvest;
- (3) Methods for achieving aesthetic objectives by blending the boundaries of vegetation treatments; and

(4) Other requirements to achieve multiple-use of the national forests and grasslands.

(d) *Designation of suitable land uses.* These plan decisions identify lands within the National Forest System that are or are not suitable for specific uses (§219.26), including, but not limited to: the transportation system; livestock grazing; special designations as described in §219.27; and lands where timber production is an objective (§219.28).

(e) *Monitoring strategy.* A monitoring strategy is required by each plan as described in §219.11(a).

### §219.8 Amendment.

(a) *Amending plans.* A plan amendment may add, modify, or rescind one or more of the decisions of a plan (§219.7). An amendment decision must be based on the identification and consideration of issues (§219.4), applicable information (§219.5), and an analysis of the effects of the proposed amendment (§219.6). In developing an amendment, the responsible official must provide opportunities for collaboration consistent with §219.12 through §219.18.

(b) *Environmental review of a proposed plan amendment.* For each proposal for a plan amendment, the responsible official must complete appropriate environmental analyses and public involvement in accordance with Forest Service NEPA procedures. A proposed amendment that may create a significant environmental effect and thus require preparation of an environmental impact statement is considered to be a significant change in the plan. If a proposal for amendment requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement, the responsible official must give public notice and an opportunity to comment on the draft environmental impact statement for at least 90 calendar days.

### §219.9 Revision.

(a) *Application of the revision process.* Revision of a plan is required by 16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5). The revision process is a review of the overall management of a unit of the National Forest System and an opportunity to consider the likely results if plan decisions were to remain in effect.

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(b) *Initiating revision.* To begin the revision process, the responsible official must:

(1) Provide opportunities for collaboration consistent with §219.12 through §219.18;

(2) Summarize those issues the responsible official determines to be appropriate for consideration (§219.4), any relevant inventories, new data, findings and conclusions from appropriate broad-scale assessments and local analyses, monitoring and evaluation results, new or revised Forest Service policies, relevant portions of the Forest Service national strategic plan, and changes in circumstances affecting the entire or significant portions of the plan area;

(3) Develop the information and complete the analyses described in §219.20(a) and §219.21(a);

(4) Evaluate the effectiveness of the current plan in contributing to sustainability (§§219.19–219.21) based on the information, analyses, and requirements described in §219.20(a) and (b) and §219.21(a) and (b), and provide for an independent scientific peer review (§219.22) of the evaluation;

(5) Identify new proposals for special areas, special designation, or for recommendation as wilderness (§219.27);

(6) Identify specific watersheds in need of protective or restoration measures;

(7) Identify lands classified as not suitable for timber production (§219.28);

(8) Identify and evaluate inventoried roadless areas and unroaded areas based on the information, analyses, and requirements in §219.20(a) and §219.21(a). During the plan revision process or at other times as deemed appropriate, the responsible official must determine which inventoried roadless areas and unroaded areas warrant additional protection and the level of protection to be afforded; and

(9) Develop an estimate of outcomes that would be anticipated, including uses, values, products, or services, for a 15-year period following initiation of the revision process, if the plan decisions in effect at the time the revision process began remain in effect.

(c) *Public notice of revision process and review of information.* After the responsible official has compiled the information

required under paragraph (b) of this section, the responsible official must give public notice of the plan revision process and make the information compiled under paragraph (b) of this section available for public comment for at least 45 calendar days.

(d) *Notice of Intent.* Based upon the information compiled under paragraph (b) of this section and any comments received during the comment period required under paragraph (c) of this section, the responsible official must publish a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement to add, modify, remove, or continue in effect the decisions embodied in a plan. The responsible official must give the public notice and an opportunity to comment on the draft environmental impact statement for at least 90 calendar days. Following public comment, the responsible official must oversee preparation of a final environmental impact statement in accordance with Forest Service NEPA procedures.

(e) *Final decision on plan revision.* The revision process is completed when the responsible official signs a record of decision for a plan revision.

### §219.10 Site-specific decisions.

To the extent appropriate and practicable and subject to valid existing rights and appropriate statutes, the responsible official must provide opportunities for collaboration consistent with §219.12 through §219.18, follow the planning framework described in §§219.4–219.6 and comply with §219.11 to make site-specific decisions. All site-specific decisions, including authorized uses of land, must be consistent with the applicable plan. If a proposed site-specific decision is not consistent with the applicable plan, the responsible official may modify the proposed decision to make it consistent with the plan, reject the proposal; or amend the plan to authorize the action.

### §219.11 Monitoring and evaluation for adaptive management.

(a) *Plan monitoring strategy.* Each plan must contain a practicable, effective, and efficient monitoring strategy to evaluate sustainability in the plan area (§§219.19–219.21). The strategy must require monitoring of appropriate plan